

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating pain in a subject comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of loxapine, pharmaceutically acceptable salts of loxapine and prodrugs of loxapine.
2. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said effective amount is an amount sufficient to reduce pain present in said subject.
3. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said compound is administered systemically.
4. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said pain is selected from the group consisting of migraine pain, cluster headache pain and tension-type headache pain.
5. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein said pain is migraine pain.
6. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein said pain is cluster headache pain.
7. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein said pain is tension-type headache pain.
8. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said compound is administered by inhalation.
9. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said subject is human, said pain is migraine, and said compound is administered by inhalation.
10. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein from about 0.3 to about 20 mg of loxapine is administered, or an amount of a salt or prodrug of loxapine is administered that produces in the subject a blood concentration of loxapine equivalent to the administration of from about 0.3 to about 20 mg loxapine.

11. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein from about 1 to about 10 mg of loxapine is administered, or an amount of a salt or prodrug of loxapine is administered that produces in the subject a blood concentration of loxapine equivalent to the administration of from about 1 to about 10 mg loxapine.

12. A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein administration of the loxapine or salt or prodrug thereof to the subject is conducted so as to result in a maximum blood level of loxapine within about 30 minutes from said administration.

13. A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein administration of the loxapine or salt or prodrug thereof to the subject is conducted so as to result in a maximum blood level of loxapine within about 15 minutes from said administration.

14. A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein administration of the loxapine or salt or prodrug thereof to the subject is conducted so as to result in a peak rate of increase in the blood level of loxapine of at least about 1 ng/ml/minute.

15. A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein administration of the loxapine or salt or prodrug thereof to the subject is conducted so as to result in a blood level of loxapine of at least about 5 ng/ml within about 15 minutes from said administration

16. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said compound is administered via inhalation using a rapid-heating drug delivery article or a thin-film drug delivery article.

17. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said compound is administered via inhalation delivery device, said compound being vaporized and condensed to provide at least 50% recovery of said compound in an aerosol and wherein said aerosol contains less than about 5% by weight of compound degradation products.

18. A method in accordance with claim 17, wherein said compound is coated on a substrate in the delivery device as thin-film having a film thickness between about 0.5 and 20 μm .

19. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said compound is administered in the form of an aerosol having a mass median aerodynamic diameter (MMAD) of between about 0.01 and about 3 μm .

20. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said compound is administered via a rapid heating drug delivery article, said compound being volatilized from a compound composition film under conditions sufficient to provide an aerosol having at least 50% recovery of said compound and containing less than about 10% by weight of compound degradation products.

21. A composition for the treatment of pain, said composition comprising (a) an analgesic amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of loxapine, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and prodrugs thereof, and (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. A composition of claim 21, further comprising one or more analgesic, anti-inflammatory or antimigraine agents.

23. A thin-film composition for the treatment of pain comprising an analgesic amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of loxapine, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and prodrugs thereof, and having a film thickness of from about 0.5 to about 20 μm .

24. A method for treating headache pain in a subject comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of loxapine, pharmaceutically acceptable salts of loxapine and prodrugs of loxapine.